

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

The DAILY DISPATCH is delivered to subscribers at the rate of \$1.00 per week, payable in advance. It is published every day except on Sundays, and on the 1st of each month. The price for three months is \$2.50, for six months \$4.50, and for a year \$8.00. The WEEKLY DISPATCH is published on Wednesdays, and is sold at the rate of \$1.00 per copy. The price for three months is \$2.50, for six months \$4.50, and for a year \$8.00.

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articles that came into this country, and at the same time exempt from the tariff charges all raw materials, might suit Pennsylvania very well, but not Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, Tennessee, &c., &c. Oh, no. Let us of the South have the benefits as well as the disadvantages of protection. We do not wish to be taxed on our purchases, at the same time that our own natural productions are made to compete with those of all other countries.

The Pleadings.

We did not bring out yesterday as clearly as we desired to do the point we wished to make to Judge HUGHES's decision and the Legislature. The insuperable objection to that decision is that it commands the Auditor to receive coupons which have not been proved to be genuine. Judge HUGHES says in his opinion that he did this because the Code of Virginia of 1873 provides as follows:

"Where a bill, declaration, or other proceeding, alleges that any person made, endorsed, assigned, or accepted any writing, no proof of the handwriting of such person shall be required, unless the fact be denied by an affidavit with the answer, plea, or other pleading which puts it in issue."

So the great question of redemptiveness has been reduced to a question of pleadings.

Now, all that the Legislature has to do is to repeal the law above quoted so far as it is used in coupons cases, or rather to provide by law that the statute above quoted shall not apply to coupon cases. This is exactly what we hold to be the condition of the law already; but as Judge HUGHES refuses to look through the spectacles of the people of Virginia, our Legislature may possibly have to comply with his wishes in this respect.

It requires no argument to show that if Judge HUGHES would amend his mandamus, or restraining order, or mandatory injunction, or whatever else he may prefer to style it, so as to require the Auditor to receive all such and only such coupons as have been proved to be genuine in the manner prescribed by law, then the State of Virginia would have no reason to complain of the writ. It is because he has set at naught the law of the Commonwealth, and issued orders intended to supersede state-law, that the people are so eloquent and so unanimous in the judgment of condemnation which they have visited upon him.

Forest Slaughter.

The people and the press of New York and other eastern cities are considerably exercised over the water supply of their streams, and says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "as this calls up the forestry question, the whole field of mountain denudation, forest fires, exposure of the earth, and constant alternation of droughts and floods, is being traversed with an energy and zeal that promise something practical as the outcome." The same paper declares that the most serious efforts of Congress must be supplemented by State enactments in the nature of prohibitions on tree-cutting and encouragement to tree planting before the evil can be fully met, and adds:

"The matter is certainly one of grave consequence, not, perhaps, to any one individual, or to any one class of individuals, or even, it may be, to any one generation, but to the entire country both in its present situation and in its prospects. It is unfortunate, however, that the very indefiniteness of the threatened evil is one of its worst features. If it menaced one man or set of men, one community, or even but one State, means would be taken to avert it; but so broad is it that while one generation does the mischief and reaps the benefit of it, another feels the damage. A forest is cut down here, and the men who do the cutting become rich, while a thousand miles away other men are placed in bodily peril, and see the flood sweep away the labors of years in an hour."

The Globe-Democrat is right.

The matter is one of grave consequence. In Pennsylvania it has taken such grave shape that it was recently proposed in the Legislature of that State to exempt from taxation a certain number of acres of woodland in every thousand in order to stimulate forest-preservation. We do not remember whether the measure became a law; but it was generally recognized that some step to prevent the denudation of the forests was a necessity. And what is a necessity in Pennsylvania will soon become a necessity in Virginia, if the peace-wise-pundit foolish policy of giving our timberlands over to the axe by the wholesale continues. Let the farmers' convention which meets in this city in April give this subject careful consideration.

Why Not?

The Charlottesville Jeffersonian says of the Bond decision:

"One thing is certain: under this decision it would not be long before the State would be bankrupt and have gone this far, may they not order additional taxation, collect the taxes by means of United States marshals, have the money deposited in some bank subject to the order of the court for the payment of the bondholders through a receiver of that court? Surely if the State has authority to say to the State what creditors it shall pay and what it may not, and how its funds shall be applied, it will have the right to adopt the means for carrying out its decisions. Who can say what means will be adopted? When usurpation once begins, who can tell where it will end? This is not a local question; it affects the whole country. If it can be done in Virginia, it may be done also in New York. This usurpation should be met by the State with firmness. We had better be a military district than the dupes of these judicial usurpers and would-be satraps."

Every word true.

Nevertheless the parrots who daily repeat in the New York Republican papers what they hear said on Wall Street know no better than to undertake to moralize on this subject for the benefit of the heathen people of Virginia.

Mr. Labouchere does not believe in letting the fortunes that men make live after them—in undivided entirety. "I would not allow," he says, "any one to inherit from another beyond a certain sum. Let us suppose this sum were \$100,000, and that a man died leaving a fortune of \$1,000,000, and three chil-

dren. A twenty per cent. succession duty would absorb \$200,000. There would then, after each child had inherited \$200,000, remain \$400,000. To share this he would have to find five nearly a million, and two sons a trifle, as is the result of the mode in which rich men now leave their money, the State would come in for \$200,000, and eight persons would have a very comfortable provision."—New York Tribune.

Surely Mr. LABOUCHERE is a shortsighted man. The rich man would in his lifetime give to his three children all of his property except what would go to them under Mr. LABOUCHERE's proposed law, at his death.

It is a good joke on Mr. DORSEIMER, who doesn't believe that protection protects, that of his silver bill the 4th section subjects foreign silver coin and bullion to a duty practically prohibitory, and allows only silver of home production to be coined or used as a deposit in bars.

What says Mr. DORSEIMER?

Robert Ord's *Monument*. A Novel. By ROSA NONCHETTE CAREY, author of "Nellie's Memories" and "The Old Girls." Philadelphia: J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co., 1885.

For sale by WEST, JOHNSTON & Co. In *Durance Vile and Other Stories*. By the Duchess, author of "The Notion," "Molly Bacon," "Rossmore," &c. Philadelphia: J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co., 1885.

For sale by WEST, JOHNSTON & Co. Both these books are in paper, and marked 25 cents—cheap enough.

BRIEF COMMENT.

Most every newspaper correspondent in this country is engaged in raising a crop of cantanarians.

The New York Herald says: "Paris has always a clown." Yes, the Herald's Paris correspondent is always turning somersaults.

The Boston Herald notes the statement that BENNY BUTLER is out of politics, and cries: "Come back, BENNY." Has the Herald lost its head?

The Albany Argus says: "The Sultan of Morocco has just celebrated his thousandth wedding, and yet he is not happy." Do his mothers-in-law live with him?

An exchange says: "There is no abstinence for the appetite of the spoilsman." Yet all the same, the spoilsman will be compelled to abstain after the 4th of March.

The Philadelphia Times says: "A Democrat is elected to the Common Council in the Twenty-third ward." The inference is that he will be in rather bad company for some time to come.

The Brooklyn Eagle says: "The love of drink-poker in Brooklyn is a domestic virtue, not a popular vice." And the ladies always hold the winning hands, and generally draw for a "full."

The Philadelphia North American says: "Running the Democratic machine has been MAXIM's only training for office." But if he runs an office as successfully as he ran what the American terms "the machine," he will do.

The Mecklenburg Committee.

CLARKSVILLE, VA., February 14, 1885.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I hope you will allow me a short space to reply to a letter which appeared in your issue of the 9th of February, which attempted to criticize the action of the Executive Committee of this country, of which I am a member, and which met in Boydon on the 7th of this month to take such action as seemed best for the welfare of the Democratic party under the existing state of affairs.

To a stranger, or to any one who is not acquainted with what had taken place previous to the call of this meeting with respect to the post-office at Boydon, the county-seat of Mecklenburg, it might appear from that letter that the Executive Committee of this county was playing the Robert Walpole, and essaying to usurp all the power of the realm; but when the real purpose for which this meeting was called is known none can doubt the propriety of it.

All know how hard it is to the Republican party to have to relinquish its grasp on that power which they have had for nearly a quarter of a century, and although that party is now in its last gasp it is yet trying, by indirection, to usurp prerogatives that belong properly to the incoming Administration.

This section of Virginia, being as generally known, the Black Belt, has had the dry bone, so far as offices are concerned, but the people have been actuated by feelings of patriotism as lofty and sublime as ever blazoned on the altars of our revolutionary sires, and while the old party up to this time has had no rewards or benefits to confer, the true Democrats have never abated their zeal, but have ever rallied to her call, as did the ancient clans in the bugle-blast of Roderick Dhu.

But to come to the real question: A short time since the post-office changed hands in Boydon in a strange manner, and through instrumentalities, and the Executive Committee believed, antagonistic to the Democratic party, the circumstances are these: Richard Jones, a negro man and a Republican, has been postmaster at Boydon for a number of years, and the good people of the little town have looked forward with much pleasure to the time in the near future when the Democratic Administration might supply his place, but very much to the surprise of everyone except those who are acquainted with Radical rickety, a short time since Richard Jones resigned, and after his resignation, through the working of the Republicans, as the committee had good reason to believe